Singapore-India defence cooperation

*240. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singapore and India have signed a defence cooperation agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Navies of the two countries have held joint exercises; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Singapore have signed an Agreement concerning cooperation in the field of defence on 13th October, 2003.

The areas identified for military cooperation with Singapore cover exchange of military expertise and personnel, military training, exchange of visits, bilateral naval exercises and participation in defence related seminars and symposia.

The Indian Navy has held joint exercises with the Republic of Singapore Navy and the last such exercise was held in March, 2003 off the coast of Kochi.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Mining by State Government companies/PSUs

1543. SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
DR. A.R. KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's order authorizing State Government companies or undertakings to do regular coal or lignite mining has been welcomed by States;